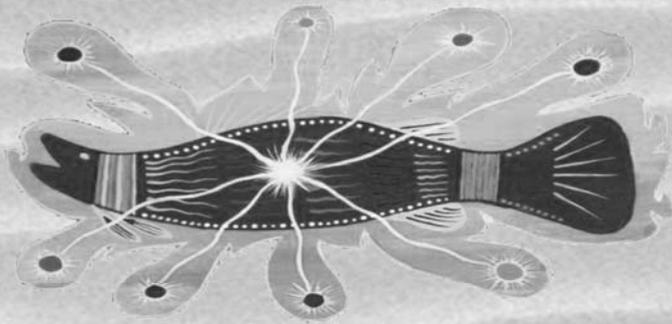


INDIGENOUS MINISTRY

LINKS AUSTRALIA

NIGEL'S QUARTERLY UPDATE



The Mission

*“Partnering with Aboriginal Australians,
modelling holistic practical solutions to the challenges
of Indigenous community life.”*

Nigel Davies—Pastoral Support Co-ordinator—Northern Territory Ministry Team

Mobile: 0448 565 221

Phone: (08) 8525 4385

Email: nigel.davies@nuskope.com.au

Facebook Nigel Davies Indigenous Ministry Link Australia Support Network

Donations BSB: 034 197 ACC: 212423 Westpac



Hi my Name is Nigel Davies and I have been married to Julie for 37 years. I have 2 adult children and two grandchildren. Until October 2010 I worked as a Community Mental Clinician for about 25 years. Due to illness I was forced to leave this position. I have spent the last 7 years recovering partly from this

illness and now have become involved in voluntary ministry to Indigenous people in the Northern Territory.

It has been a dream of mine for over 30 years to want to support indigenous people in their own communities and in October 2016 God opened the doors for this to happen.

I have become involved with Indigenous Ministry Links Australis as Pastoral Support Coordinator to the Northern Territory Ministry leaders.

I have committed to visit various parts of Northern Territory 4 times per year, providing pastoral support, mentorship and administration support to the IMLA Northern Territory Ministry Team Leaders. When not in the Northern Territory I spend many hours supporting the ministry leaders by phone

Since taking on this ministry role I have had the privilege to minister at the following communities Gove (Nhulunbuy), Elcho Island (Galiwinku), Lake Evella (Gapuwiyak), in North Eastern Arnhemland, Adelaide River and Beswick, Darwin Ali Curung, Elliott, Oenpelli, Maningria Lajamanu, plus other communities

I have many stories of how God is working in these communities. That I would love to share with you and your church

Yours in Christ

Nigel Davies

IMLA is a non for profit organisation, and is a registered charity. All team members including myself are self-supporting and rely very strongly on the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to provide their needs. You are welcome to partner with me in this ministry.

Well this year has turned out to be exceptional busy with me ending being away for about 10 weeks so far.

Towards the end of last year I purchased a 1990 Pajero to take up to the N.T in April this year. Although I purchased at a good price I was required to do some work on it to bring it up to scratch.

I headed to Darwin in January this year for 4 weeks and went to Ali Curung, Elliott, Beswick, Manyuluk and Belyuen. I was unable to go to Lajamanu due to the roads being flooded.

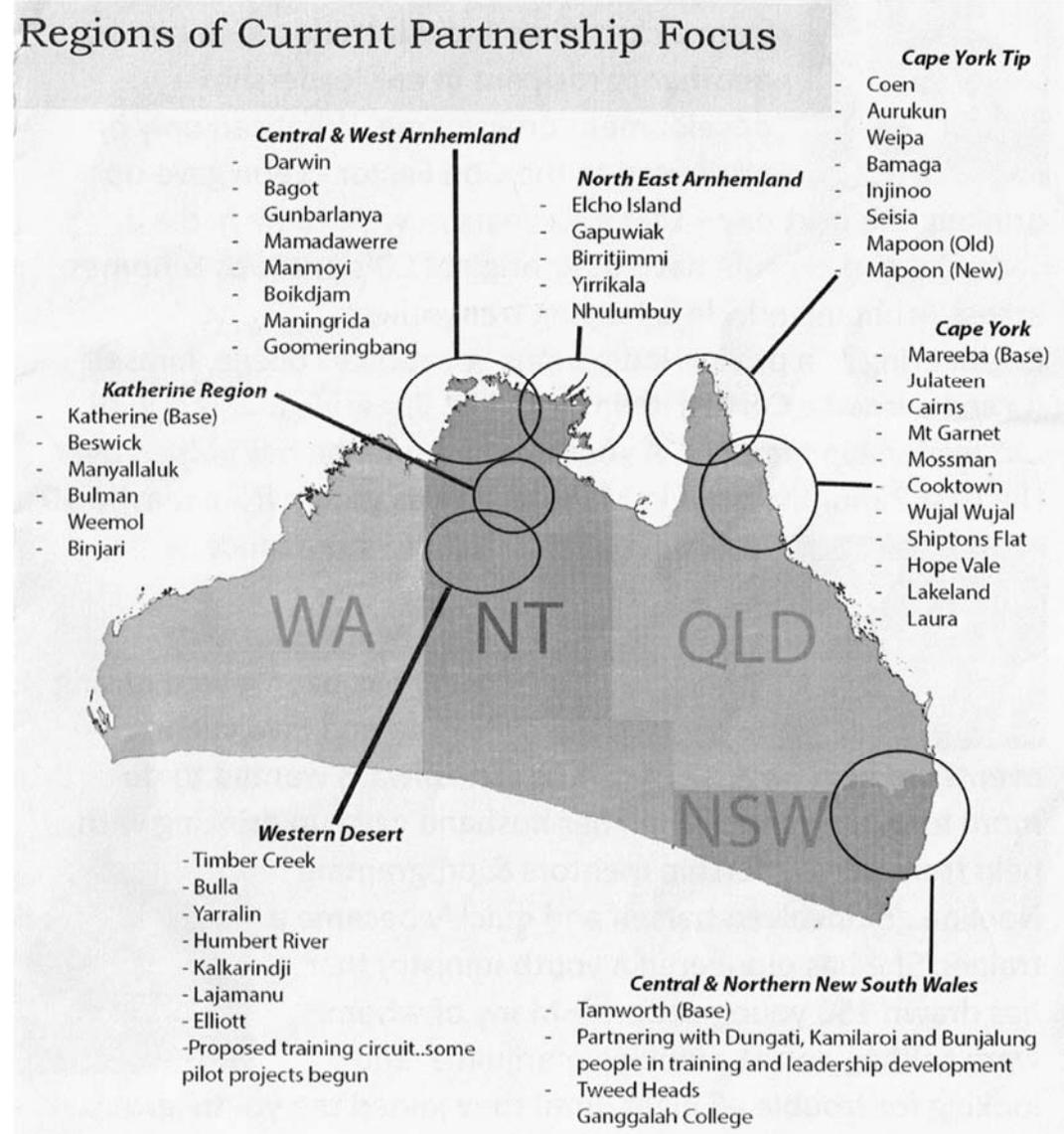
When in Darwin I met a Pastor Gloria Miller indigenous lady who has travelled and spoke in many different nations, who was conducting a crusade to all states of Australia with a team of about 7 people. I invited her and the team to stay with us in Adelaide in February. So I arrived home early February followed but Gloria and the team arriving shortly after. This was a great time as Gloria is a magnificent woman of faith. Gloria travel around by trusting God for financial provision. After a busy week with the team in Adelaide Gloria invited me to travel with her to Tasmania and Sydney.. This proved to be invaluable as I had the opportunity to share about my ministry and share the gospel. It was also good as I spent a lot of time with Gloria learning more about trusting God for our provision rather than striving and struggling by my own means.

Within days of Gloria and the team leaving Carl Musch founder of IMLA came to stay for 10 days as I had organised him and another friend Jerry to come over for 2 weekends of mission training, at Elizabeth and Magill Church of Christ. This proved to be a great time.

Also I was informed by Wayne Shepherd minister from Hampstead Gardens Church of Christ that they will partner with me this year by assisting with financial provision. Thankyou to Sally Osterstock and Ken Jacobs who have been extreme my active in the area of fundraising. I left for Darwin in the Pajero early April and have just returned from N.T. Had a great time. Well run out of room so bye for now and thanks.

IMLA'S most fruitful program has been long term relationship based, **leadership mentoring** of individuals who we identify as having a vision for positive change. Participants have gone on to fulfil various community leadership roles such as Councillors, Health workers, Police, Teachers, Ministers and Small-Business people.

The greatest outcomes are **lives transformed** as individuals are freed from crippling dependence on welfare, and communities have



Testimonies

Anderson George was just out of gaol, and a drug addict, when he came into the programme. Today he is married with 2 boys (more adopted children), an Ambulance Officer and school committee vice chairman. He is a sought after public speaker on issues like Drugs, Forgiveness & Culture. He has served on the Board of IMLA.



Leon Guymala was drunk on his way home from a club when I was introduced to him by another participant in our leadership development programme. What can only be attributed to the God Factor - Leon gave up drinking the next day - that's six years now since he had a drink. Today he and his wife have their original CD's in shops & homes across Arnhemland. He is helping train others in Sound Engineering at a private Indigenous vocational college, himself having earned a Certificate in Sound Engineering and is one of our leadership mentors. A youth programme he has helped over the past 2 months build in Maningrida has grown from maybe 30 to 200+ in attendance.



Noeline Maraignurra of Oenpelli has been a wife raising 4 children and involved in

events we held for many years but she always wanted to do more for her people. When her husband gave up drinking with help from our leadership mentors & programme Noeline got involved herself and quickly became a trainer. She has pioneered a youth ministry that has drawn 150 young people - Many of whom were sniffing petrol, smoking marijuana and looking for trouble all night, until they joined the youth group.



Manmoyi is a community that 8 years ago only had 1 local P.T job and



plenty of despair. Similar to the current W.A. situation, the N.T. Govt had declared these out-station communities un-viable and threatened closure by withdrawal of all funding & services. In desperation the community leaders turned to us for help. In summary we believe and shared with them that God has given us truth in The Bible that is more than just about "pie in the sky when we die", but life principles that will help put steak on your plate while you wait. Since agreeing to learn & practise those principles like industry, faith, honesty and reliability this community reached 100% employment. It has a fulltime p-12 school, have formed their own company with contracts including feral animal control, scientific data collection & land management. Leaders from Manmoyi have been invited to tour condemned W.A. communities to share their story of freedom from welfare dependence and the principles to get you there.



Jesse Ferguson is a young Aboriginal Man from Mareeba in QLD. Like many Indigenous youth he had dropped out of High School. To his credit and indicative of his potential he had gained an apprenticeship but his ongoing health challenges caused him to drop out of that too. Since joining IMLA he has found an opportunity to serve his people. He has completed a Traineeship with us in Business Administration (which he doesn't like much but finished it anyway) and a Certificate in Business. He has now gone on to enrol in a F.T Diploma of Leadership for which we provide a trainer and produces most of our training DVD's & handles our Media Dept. on a volunteers basis.

IMLA Financial Needs

To serve these remote and vast regions with limited infrastructure the teams each require their own 4WD vehicle with the ability to take provisions with them and basic resources. The main costs are the running of a vehicle, fuel and maintenance; the roads include thousands of Kilometres of punishing corrugated dirt roads with many challenging, sometimes treacherous river crossings which make great demands on our aging vehicles, budgets and the mechanics who fix them.

It is envisioned that IMLA will always be primarily a network of volunteers. However for us to meet the demands of growth and more significant projects we need the funds to retain our most committed, effective, indigenous volunteers and to employ others with specialist skills.

So please partner with us today.....

With an Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Strategy there are many ways we work with communities. The ABCD developmental philosophy is grounded on the recognition and maximising of existing community human, material, intellectual and spiritual assets (faith) rather than the more common institutional approach of basing action on perceived deficiencies and “problems” alone.

- ***Leadership development and Mentoring***
 - ***Youth Groups***
 - ***Independent Specialist Schools***
 - ***Church Groups***
 - ***Job Creation and Preparation***
 - ***Vocational Training***
- ***Cross Cultural training for Non Indigenous Workers***
- ***International (Pacific) Indigenous Exchange Worker Program***
 - ***Life Skills***
 - ***Small Business Incubator***



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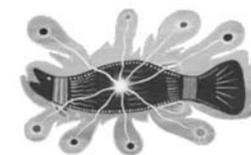
*EVANGELISM *CHURCH PLANTING
*MINISTRY TRAINING * BRIDGE BUILDING
*NETWORKING

*BREAKING THE POVERTY CYCLE

Phone: (07) 4092 6168

Email: imla@imla.org.au

Website: www.imla.org.au



**“...Christ in you
the Hope of Glory.”**

Col 1:27